**Lay Dominican Inquiry Formation**

**Meeting Nine**

**Poems of St Catherine of Sienna**

**CONSUMED IN GRACE**

I first saw God when I was a child, six years of age.
The cheeks of the sun were pale before Him,
and the earth acted as a shy girl, like me.

Divine light entered my heart from His love
that did never fully wane,

though indeed, dear, I can understand how a person’s faith can at time flicker,

for what is the mind to do
with something that becomes the mind’s ruin:
a God that consumes us in His grace.

I have seen what you want;
it is there,
a Beloved of infinite tenderness.

**CONSECRATED**

All has been consecrated.
The creatures in the forest know this,

The earth does, the seas do, the clouds know
as does the heart full of love.

Strange a priest would rob us of this knowledge

and then empower himself with the ability

to make holy what already was

**THE SANCTUARY**

It could be said that God’s foot is so vast
That this entire earth is but a field on His toe,

and all the forests in this world came from the same root of just a single hair of His.

What then is not a sanctuary?
Where can I not kneel and pray at a shrine made holy by His presence?

**ETERNAL TRINITY**

Eternal Trinity, Godhead,
mystery deep as the sea,
you could give me no greater gift than the gift of yourself.

For you are a fire ever burning and never consumed,
which itself consumes all the selfish love that fills my being.

Yes, you are a fire that takes away the coldness,
illuminates the mind with its light, and causes me to know your truth.

And I know that you are beauty and wisdom itself.

The food of angels, you gave yourself to man in the fire of your love.
PRAYER OF ST CATHERINE

I see that you have endowed your vicar
by nature
with a fearless heart;
so I humbly, imploringly beg you
to pour the light beyond nature
into the eye of his understanding.
For unless this light,
acquired through pure affection for virtue,
is joined with it,
a heart such as his tends to be proud.

Today again let every selfish love be cut away
from those enemies of yours
and from the vicar
and from us all,
so that we may be able to forgive those enemies
when you bend their hardness.

For them, that they may humble themselves
and obey this lord of ours,
I offer you my life
from this moment
and for whenever you wish me to lay it down
for your glory.

REST IN PRAYER

The sun hears the fields talking about effort
and the sun
smiles,
and whispers to
me,
“Why don’t the fields just rest, for
I am willing to do everything
to help them
grow?”
Rest, my dears, in prayer.

Reading List

Dominicana
Ch 8 (Notable Dominicans)
Ch 9 (Art and Iconography)

Sacred Scripture
Hebrews
2 Timothy
Jude
John 1 - 7

Catechism of the Catholic Church
Paragraphs 2052 - 2345
**Dominican Art**

Selection of the Altar of Recanati polyptych (1508) by Lorenzo Lotto featuring St Catherine of Sienna.

St Dominic by Carlo Crivelli (1476)

St Peter Martyr by Fra Angelico (1440)

St Thomas Aquinas by Fra Angelico (1440)
The Meeting of St Francis and St Dominic by Fra Angelico (1429)

St Cecilia by Guido Reni (1606)

Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb by Fra Angelico (1442)

Crucifixion with St Dominic by Fra Angelico (1442)
The Mocking of Christ
by Fra Angelico (1435)

Institution of the Eucharist
by Fra Angelico (1442)

Further Information Online

www.aug.edu/augusta/iconography/dominic.html

www.op-stjoseph.org/blog/fra_angelico/

www.opne.org/art.htm

www.poetseers.org/spiritual_and_devotional_poets/christian/cat/
## Dominicana: A Guidebook for Inquirers

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